

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat

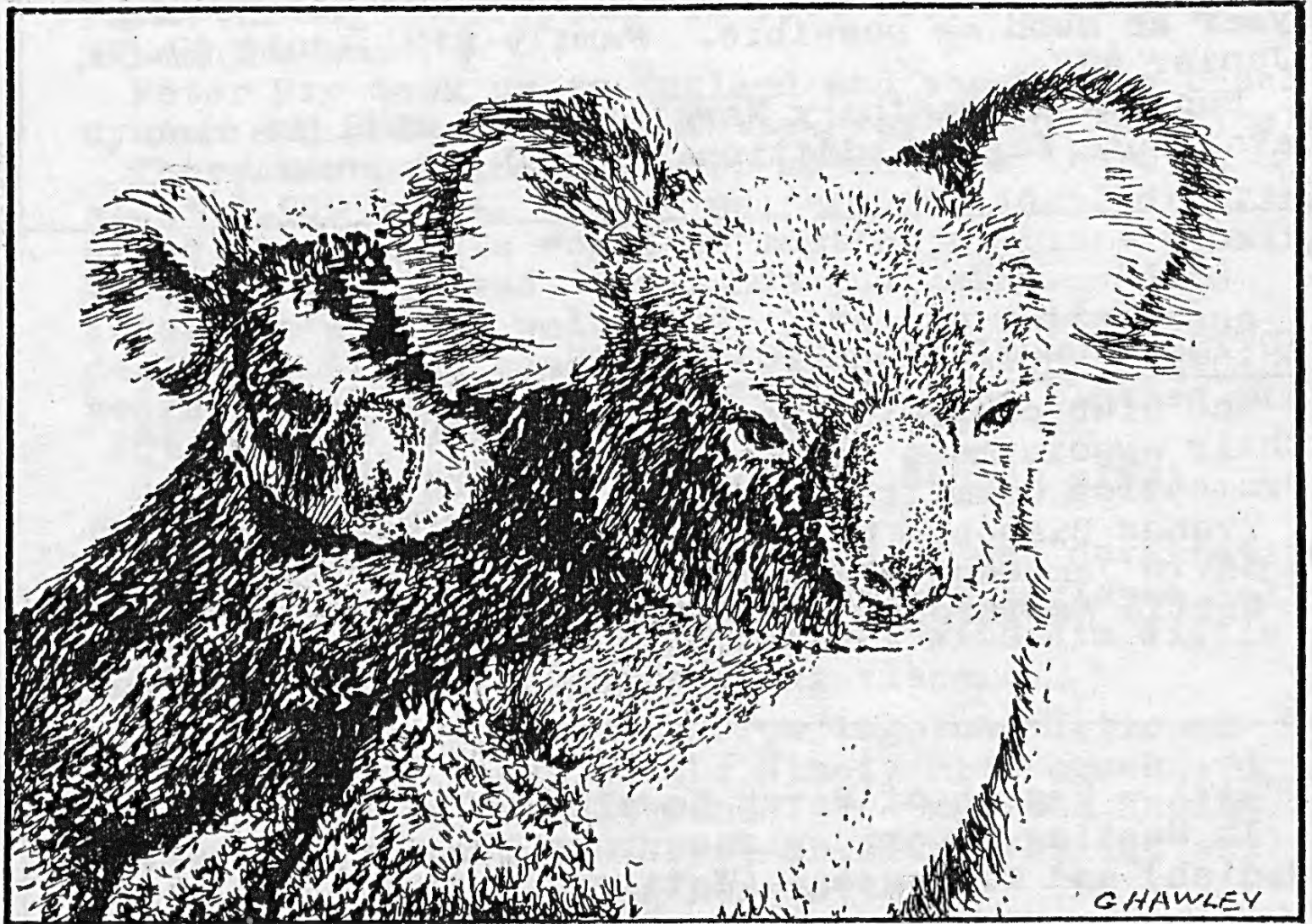
APRIL 1986

EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting April 4 : "Koalas" - Roger Martin.

Excursion April 11-13 : Halley's Comet Campout, Grampian
April 25-27 : W.V.F.N.C.A. Campout, Portland.

Excursion May 4 : Mt. William (Aboriginal ^{stone} quarries)
Lancefield. L.Fink.



President: Miss H Burgess 312210
Secretary: Mrs P Murphy 323289
Treasurer: Mrs F Williamson 327631
Editors: Mr G Binns 1323670
Mr L Fink 052 861319

B DOWLING

Meetings, as specified, are held in the Art
Building of the School of Mines and Industries,
Lydiard Street South, Ballarat, commencing 7.30pm.
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM
CROCKERS, Cnr. STURT and ARMSTRONG STREETS,
BALLARAT, AT 9.30 am FOR FULL DAY OUTINGS.
OR AT 1.30 pm FOR HALF DAY.

APRIL EXCURSION - The Comet "Campout", Hall's Gap.

Details of arrangements for this event were printed in the March Newsletter. The daytime excursions on Saturday and Sunday will depart from the carpark area opposite Hall's Gap shops at 10.30 am. Members of S.G.A.P. are combining with the Club for this weekend.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now Due

Florence Williamson, our Hon. Treasurer, will be delighted to receive subscriptions for the coming year as soon as possible. Family \$12., Adult \$7.50, Junior \$2. .

Receipt of monthly Newsletter by mail is also available for an additional \$4.50 per annum.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS.

The Club congratulates the following persons in their appointment to the Ballarat Regional Land Protection Committee -

Yvonne Bishop - Maryborough F.N.C.

Gavin Jamieson - Apiarists.

Martin Westbrooke - A.C.F. nominee.

ERRATA - Page 6 of March Newsletter

In Meeting report, please read Brassicaceae (wild Radish) and Mimosaceae (Wattles).

MARCH MEETING.

March is Members night, it is also our Annual Meeting. Harvey Hooper took the chair for the election of office bearers.

Following the Annual and the General Meetings a number of members entertained us with slides. Lyndsay Fink showed slides from various outings and campouts; the Coast, Mt Arapiles, the floating Islands and others, also a typical scene at the end of a hard day in the field!

Ken Hammond showed some very interesting picture; the Aboriginal Fertility Tree, wells at Maryborough, some of group outings, many of birds, nests and eggs, a number of flowers, and also the gardens at Kirks Reservoir.

Frank Harrap chose waterfalls and showed many interesting waterfalls from the Lamington National Park, through N.S.W., one in Victoria, and some of Tasmania's best.

Peter Fry took us to England and showed the canal system and told us some of the history of the canals.

There was originally 6,000 miles, now there is about 1,500 miles. For a peaceful holiday, drifting along these canals would be most enjoyable - passing through small towns, farmlands and lakes. Added interests are the waterbirds like the white swans depicted. These canals were in operation about 150 years before the railways. They can be blocked off for repairs or cleaning.

Greg Binns showed slides of the anchor plant and white ibis nest and eggs.

Florence Williamson chose views of the devastation caused by the fires, kangaroos on the Anglesea Golf course, the Melville caves campout with Jim Willis, some cave dwellers!, and coastal views.

Joanne Binns took us to Croajingolong National Park, including views of the Ninety mile beach and Malacoota inlet from Mt Genoa. We saw the Shoalhaven river, Kosciusko N.P., Threadbo Village and chairlift and the top of Australia.

Helen Burgess showed slides of the W.V.F.N.C.A. banner and planting a tree at Colac to commemorate 25 years.

L.F.

BEACH AND FORESHORE WITH MARY WHITE

Between our own tidemarks of birth and death our lives are scattered. Bits of detached love lie bleaching, hopes have been crushed to sand or grown to achievements which themselves have become irrelevant, vital offspring leap and laugh, unfilled promises are like collapsed seaweed bladders as our lives are weakened, eroded, and finally broken.

This drama is nowhere seen more clearly than on the beach where, twice daily, the sea heaves up its collection of life and death for our inspection.

On 8th March, led by knowledgeable Mary White, we made an excursion to beaches at Anglesea and Airey's Inlet.

The day was fine and a cool southerly blew the big spiked heads of Hairy spinifex along the beach.

Mary rapidly named plant species "Thyme Rice-flower, Sea-berry Saltbush, the prickly Acacia paradoxa and here is The Enemy" she pulled out a boneseed plant, held it by the neck for us to see and dropped it cruelly underfoot.

The low tide revealed rock plateaus of limestone pitted scalloped and guttered. They were covered with seagrapes and mussels and barnacles. At the lowest tidemark cunjevoi clung in clusters like bad banksia men. They are also known as seasquirts and fishermen sometimes use their red insides for bait.

In small still pools we saw camoflague crabs and camoflague anemones, groups of Dogwinkles (or Dogwhelks) and the blackest possible Sea-elephant snail out of and quite covering his shell as he waved his horns.

Many stones in the pools were lightly sanded and on this sand had been traced primitive and Aboriginal designs as the sea-snails left cleared tracks behind them. There was also sea-lettuce, sea-celery, sea-grass, surf crabs and many firmly set jellies of the waratah anemones, and there were mermaids in the biggest pool.

We lunched on a sheltered headland where dry grass had heads like pussy willow pointed softly for calligraphy. This was Hare's Tail, an introduced grass. Marram is also an introduced species, from

the Mediterranean. Why not make more use of native spinifex for the binding of our dunes?

The big cave at Aireys is in a cliff of basalt overlaid with limestone. In the limestone numerous fossils can be seen.

On the sand we found seaweeds red, green, brown and white, the carapaces of shrimp and notched crab. Along the high tide mark were a dead mutton bird and a huge Toady fish, hollow as a glove, all spines and head, old beyond stinking, his mouth two huge plates of bone for crunching (I was told) the shells from rocks. There were also dead fairy penguins, sheet and foam plastic, sculptured driftwood and a length of 4 by 2 heavily ornamented with the lovely gooseneck barnacles, each barnacle shell held to the timber by a long gooseneck.

You win some and you lose some - Mary pointed out two plant species she had not seen until after the Ash Wednesday fires. These were the *Brachycome diversifolia*, and *Podolepis jaceoides*.

We saw kestrels roosting on the cliffs near Urquharts Bluff.

And we were interesting too, *H.sapiens*, particularly *H.sapiens hangliderii* that breasted the wind above Moggs Creek. They hung and slid and hovered like raptors.

Chitons, Nerites, cliffs stained with mud to resemble waterfalls, the red berry from a Ruby Saltbush being hauled along by an ant, a tiny shell held on Mary's palm, a chiton shell plate at the end of her pointing finger, what Mary White demonstrated the whole time is that everything is extraordinary.

ALSO SEEN: Small-leaf Clematis, Swamp Gum, Ironbark, Helichrysums - Tree everlasting, Coast Everlasting, Slender Velvet Bush, Angled Lobelia, *Olearia pannosa*, *ramulosa*, and *axillaris*, *Pimelea* spp, *Acacia pycnantha*, *A. sophorae*, *Myoporum viscosum*, Kangaroo Grass, Knobby Club Rush, Native Raspberry, Bidgee Widgee, Cushionbush, *Ixodia*, Dodder, *Poa sieberana*, *Dianella* spp, Twinleaf, Creeping Monkey Flower, Bracken, Austral Stork's Bill, *Dichondra repens*, Running Postman, Arrow Grass, Buffalo grass in flower, Saltgrass, /// Bull kelp, Buttons from Turban Shells, Seamoss, limpets, the limy tubes

Could over. 5.

of Galeolaria worms, sea urchins, man photographing wife with dog, nautilus fragment, tiny fish called Bennies, starfish, foaming and white-veined breakers, /// Pardalotes, Little Grebes, Silver Gulls, Pacific Gulls, Gannets, Cormorants (Black faced and Pied) Crested Terns, Whitefaced Heron, Masked Lapwings. /// Skink.

Barry Dowling.

OBSERVATIONS - March Meeting.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Peter Fry | - Reported from Newlyn excursion. 'Ladies Tresses' and Fairies Aprons' were found. |
| Glen Christie | - Wallaby in home garden Black Hill, also a Little Falcon with damaged wing. |
| John Mildren | - Per J. Binns, Pair of Rufous Fantails in garden at Fiskens Rd, Mt Helen, also Satin Flycatcher and Yellow Robins. |
| Clare Dalman | - Many Lorrikeets still present in Wendouree gardens, also reports of similar recordings from Bendigo. |
| Geoff Hocking | - Koala in Lovenear Grove, Ballarat E. |
| Lyndsay Fink | - Further Koala fatalities on road between Meredith and Bunninyong, Jan 2, Feb 3, Mar 2. |
| Gavin Jamieson | - Sugar Glider found trapped inside Beehive at Evansford. |
| Kit Williamson | - Queried strange Parrot in Wendouree garden, olive green in colour, with orange on breast and tail. |

- FAMILY MYRTACEAE -

A family of trees and woody shrubs whose leaves contain "oil dots".

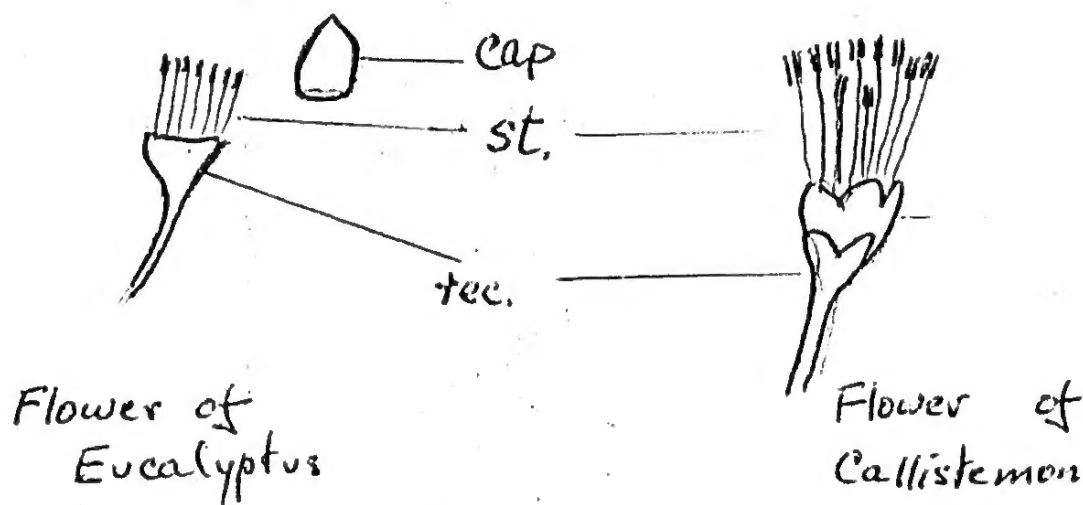
Flowers are bisexual and regular. The ovary is inferior and very close to the receptacle (i.e. "connate" and the ovary is said to be "adnate to the receptacle") The ovary has 1 - 10 cells (locules) and each of these may have many ovules. There is 1 style and the stamens are usually numerous (rarely a few).

There are 4 -5 sepals and petals, usually overlapping ("imbricate"). In Eucalyptus they are united to form a double cap which covers the stamens in the bud.

Jean Galbraith lists 21 genera for S.E. Australia.

Jim Willis describes plants belonging to 14 genera in Victoria.

Representatives of 4 genera are found near Ballarat.
(C. Beauglehole)



H.H.

BOTANICAL NOTES - CONTINUED.

July 1934.

form of its feet, with either the three-toed or two-toed *Bradypus* which are found in other countries, yet the similitude is so strong in most peculiarities, which it possesses, that the naturalist may perhaps be considered as fully justified in placing it with the Genus *Bradypus* or Sloth. It is necessary to repeat, that this animal, of which there are but three or four



Fig. 1.—“The Koalo or New Holland Sloth.”

species known, has received its name from the sluggishness and inactivity of its character, and for its remaining for a long time fixed to one spot. It inhabits woody situations, where it resides among the branches of trees, feeding upon the leaves and fruit, and is a solitary animal rarely to be met with. It is armed with hooked claws and the fore feet are in general longer than the hinder ones: some of the species of *Bradypus* have a tail; others are without.

Amongst the numerous and curious tribes of animals, which the hitherto almost undiscovered regions of New Holland have opened to our view, the creature which we are now about to describe stands singularly pre-eminent. Whether we consider the uncouth and remarkable form of its

N.B. The drawing depicts the first illustration of the Koala seen in Europe.